

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
OMB-01 AID-05 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 DOE-15 SOE-02 /139 W
-----097098 041940Z /46

P 041511Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7094
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH

UNCLAS ATHENS 6724

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS PEPR, GR, CY, TU, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN RELATIONS: COVERAGE OF EMBARGO TAPERS OFF FOR NOW

REF: ATHENS 6670 (DTG 031443Z AUG 78)

THE HOUSE EMBARGO STORY APPEARS TO HAVE PEAKED AND HAS
TRICKLED OFF FROM THE DELUGE OF THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS. A
STATEMENT BY UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT PRESIDENT ILIOU CALLING
FOR "NATIONAL UNANIMITY, POLITICAL UNITY, A REVIEW OF OUR
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NATIONAL POSITION AND A DECLARATION IN ALL DIRECTIONS THAT
WE GREEKS ARE READY FOR EVERY SACRIFICE" RATHER BELATEDLY
COMPLETED THE SHEAF OF COMMENTS BY POLITICAL LEADERS HERE.
2. ATTENTION TURNED IN SOME PRESS COVERAGE TO REPORTS
FROM ANKARA, ATRIBUTED TO HERRIYET, THAT PRESIDENT
CARTER HAD PROMISED PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT AND INITIAL
AND IMMEDIATE \$69 MILLION IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

RIGHT-WING ELEFATHEROS COSMOS' HEADLINES SAID THAT "ANKARA WILL RECEIVE ITS FIRST \$69 MILLION IMMEDIATELY", A STORY ALSO NOTED BY PRO-GOVERNMENT APOYEVMATINI. LIBERAL OPPOSITION TO VIMA, IN A REPORT FROM NEW YORK, CORRESPONDENT EFSTATHIADIS, ENLARGED ON THIS THEME TO HIGHLIGHT THE "RIVER OF ARMS" THAT WOULD NOW BEGIN TO FLOW TOWARDS TURKEY. THE REPORT FOCUSED ON AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE OF THE GREEK REACTION TO THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WHICH CREATED THE IMPRESSION, ACCORDING TO EFSTATHIADIS WHO DREW HEAVILY ON YESTERDAY'S NICK GAGE STORY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES, THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WAS NOT TERRIBLY BOTHERED BY THIS TURN OF EVENTS. AN EDITORIAL BY PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI, "THE THREE VOTES," LAMENTED THE FACT THAT, IN ITS VIEW, REPRESENTATIVES WHO COULD NOT EVEN LOCATE CYPRUS ON THE MAP HAD IN ALL PROBABILITY PROVIDED THE MARGIN OF VICTORY FOR LIFTING THE EMBARGO. THEY HAD DONE THEIR DUTY, THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED, AS HAD CARTER. IT WAS NOW UP TO GREECE, CYPRUS AND HELLENISM TO DO THEIRS TO GUARANTEE THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND SELF -RESPECT.

3. THE AFTERNOON PRESS COVERAGE ALMOST ENTIRELY DISMISSED THE EMBARGO STORY FROM THE FRONT PAGE HEADLINES, AND, ASIDE FROM TWO SHORT EDITORIALS, THE STORY APPEARED, FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, TO HAVE RUN ITS COURSE. PRO-GOVERNMENT VRADYNI, IN "THE NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION," PRAISED EDITORIALY THE ANTI-EMBARGO ACTIVITIES OF GREEK-

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AMERICANS WHOM "WE WILL NEVER FORGET." CONSERVATIVE ESTIA, IN AN EQUALLY SHORT EDITORIAL, "CONSEQUENCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES," SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE EMBARGO VOTE HAD IMPLIED THAT THERE MIGHT BE NEW DANGERS IN THE AEGEAN. IF THAT IS THE CASE, ESTIA, SAID, WHY SHOULD SUCH A STATEMENT BE MADE AFTER THE EMBARGO VOTE? THE DECLARATION THEREFORE DISPLAYED EITHER CYNICISM OR NAIVETE, ESTIA CONCLUDED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, ARMS EMBARGO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS06724
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780319-0938
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780895/aaaadbmx.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 82841d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ATHENS 6670
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1828036
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN RELATIONS: COVERAGE OF EMBARGO TAPERS OFF FOR NOW
TAGS: PEPR, GR, CY, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/82841d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014